

REMARKS

Applicants respectfully request that the foregoing amendments be made prior to further examination of the present application.

Claims 1 and 18 are currently being amended. Claims 1 and 18 have been amended to expressly recite "the target containing at least some Ta" and "the target containing at least some oxygen", respectively. Applicants submit that these limitations were implicit in claims 1 and 18 prior to the present amendment, and thus the amendment does not narrow the scope of claims 1 and 18. No new matter has been added.

This amendment changes claims in this application. A detailed listing of all claims that are, or were, in the application, irrespective of whether the claim(s) remain under examination in the application, is presented, with an appropriate defined status identifier.

After amending the claims as set forth above, claims 1, 3-10, 12, 14-18 and 20-25 are now pending in this application.

Applicants believe that the present application is now in condition for allowance. Favorable consideration of the application as amended is respectfully requested.

The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned by telephone if it is felt that a telephone interview would advance the prosecution of the present application.

Respectfully submitted,

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